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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, IMCO

SUBJECT: IMCO MARITIME SATELLITE CONFERENCE

REFS: LONDON 1347, LONDON 3172

1. DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN FURTHER THOUGHT TO ORGANIZATION
WORK METHODS, AND PRACTICABLE OUTCOME OF MARITIME SATELLITE
CONFERENCE IN LIGHT OF CONVERSATIONS WITH IMCO SECRETARY
GENERAL SRIVASTAVA AND SAVELIEV (REFTELS) AND OUR BILATERAL
SOUNDINGS. REQUEST EMBASSY REVIEW PRESENT U.S. THINKING,
WHICH IS LAYED OUT BELOW, WITH SRIVASTAVA AND, AT ITS
DISCRETION, SAVELIEV OR OTHERS, AND SEEK THEIR ACTIVE
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PARTICIPATION FOR PROCEEDING IN THIS WAY.

2. OUTCOME OF CONFERENCE. WHILE APRIL CONFERENCE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE FURTHER REFINEMENTS IN DETAILED PLANNING FOR INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM, ONLY DEFINITIVE OUTCOME WE FEEL IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT OF THIS CONFERENCE WOULD BE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM, AGREEMENT ON FOLLOW-ON PREPARATIONS LOOKING TOWARDS ITS ESTABLISHMENT, AND AGREEMENT ON TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS. PRESUMABLY THIS WOULD TAKE FORM OF CONFERENCE RESOLUTION WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE RECOMMENDATION FOR SCHEDULING OF SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE

(PERHAPS 12-18 MONTHS HENCE) AND ORGANIZATION OF APPROPRIATELY INSTRUCTED INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS TO ADVANCE PREPARATIONS FOR IT.

3. ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE. WE ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED THAT A STATE AS IMPORTANT AS U.S. IN SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS FIELD NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM WHATEVER GROUP MAY BE ESTABLISHED TO STEER WORK OF CONFERENCE. IF STEERING COMMITTEE IS TO BE SET UP ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY POE (MARSAT V/6 ANNEX II), IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO US TO HAVE ASSURANCE BEFOREHAND THAT U.S. WOULD BE MEMBER. IF, AS APPEARS LIKELY (AND ACCEPTABLE TO US), BILLINGTON (UK) ELECTED CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, AND IF USUAL IMCO FORMULA IS USED TO APPORTION VICE PRESIDENCIES TO OTHER FIVE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS (EASTERN EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, ARAB, LATIN AMERICA), U.S. WOULD WISH TO HAVE ASSURANCE AT OUTSET THAT THREE COMMITTEES SUGGESTED BY POE ALSO WOULD BE SET UP, THAT COMMITTEE OFFICERS (CHAIRMAN PLUS VICE CHAIRMAN OF EACH) WOULD BE MEMBERS OF STEERING COMMITTEE, AND THAT U.S. COULD EXPECT TO BE REPRESENTED AMONG THESE, (PREFERABLY AS CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE). THERE ARE OTHER STATES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN FIELD OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS WHOSE INTERESTS PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN SIMILAR FASHION. WITH THREE CHAIRMEN AND THREE VICE CHAIRMEN INCLUDED, STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD THEN COMPRISE TWELVE MEMBERS.

4. HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING. IN ORDER FOR DELEGATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO TAKE INITIAL ORGANIZING DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO CONFERENCE OFFICERS, THEREFORE, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO US THAT ACCORD BE REACHED IN THIS SAME CONTEXT ABOUT OVERALL ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE. THIS WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, IN WHICH WE TRUST SRIVASTAVA AND SAVELIEV WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE LEAD IN BRINGING ACCORD ON SUCH A PACKAGE. HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING PRESIDED OVER BY SRIVASTAVA, BEFORE CONFERENCE OPENS, WOULD HAVE

TO BE OCCASION FOR SECURING CONSENSUS ON CONFERENCE OFFICERS, ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN, AND COMPOSITION OF STEERING COMMITTEE. IN SCHEDULING OPENING OF CONFERENCE, ADEQUATE TIME WOULD HAVE TO BE ALLOWED ON MORNING OF OPENING DAY TO ENABLE HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING BEFOREHAND TO REACH THIS CONSENSUS.

5. AGENDA. WE BELIEVE PROVISIONAL AGENDA IS SATISFACTORY FOR ADOPTION AT OUTSET, AND BELIEVE ORDER OF ITEMS, AT LEAST WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS 5 AND 6, SHOULD BE ADHERED TO. WE ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT CONFERENCE WILL NOT FIND IT

POSSIBLE TO PROCEED AS FAR AS AGENDA ITEMS 10 AND 11. HOPE HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING COULD PRODUCE AGREEMENT ON AGENDA, RECOGNIZING ITEM 5 IS APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR GENERAL STATEMENTS.

6. OPENING STATEMENTS. AGENDA ITEM 5 ON ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE PROVIDES FIRST SUITABLE OCCASION FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION ON AIMS OF CONFERENCE AND LIKELY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THIS ITEM (ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, ETC.) WILL LARGELY DETERMINE COURSE CONFERENCE TAKES. WHILE GENERAL STATEMENTS WILL SERVE TO CLARIFY FURTHER NATIONAL ATTITUDES IN APPROACHING WORK OF APRIL CONFERENCE, WE FEEL IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CONSENSUS OF ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF CONFERENCE BE REACHED BEFOREHAND AMONG HEADS OF DELEGATION (PARA 4 ABOVE).

7. POE REPORT. ASSUMING SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR BY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER ITEM 5, INITIAL PLENARY CONSIDERATION OF POE REPORT UNDER ITEM 6 HOPEFULLY WOULD BE CONFINED TO TAKING PROCEDURAL DECISION TO REFER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORT FIRST TO THESE COMMITTEES FOR COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS BACK TO PLENARY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL DELEGATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE NOT REPRESENTED IN POE STUDIES, TO REVIEW CAREFULLY CONSIDERATIONS LEADING TO POE CONCLUSIONS, AND WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL TO EXAMINE WHAT FURTHER ACTION MUST BE TAKEN ON TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, AND INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN RESPECTIVE COMPETENCIES OF COMMITTEES COULD THEN BE REPORTED BACK TO PLENARY FOR SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATION THERE.

8. CONFERENCE DECISION. AS EXPLAINED PARA 2 ABOVE, WE FORESEE RECOGNITION BY CONFERENCE AT THIS STAGE THAT TIME NOT YET RIPE FOR CONCLUSION AND ADOPTION OF AGREEMENTS, AND THAT PREFERRED OUTCOME OF APRIL CONFERENCE WOULD BE

(A) DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM, AND (B) DEVELOPMENT OF AGREED PARAMETERS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK. DECISION ON "A" IMMEDIATELY ABOVE MIGHT BE TAKEN AT THIS POINT UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7, AND COMMITTEES THEN MIGHT BE CHARGED TO DEFINE FOLLOW ON REQUIREMENTS. THESE REQUIREMENTS MIGHT THEN BECOME INPUTS INTO (A) PLENARY CONSIDERATION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 8 OF TERMS OF REFERENCE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GIVE TO INTERSESSIONAL WORK LOOKING TOWARD SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE, AND (B) PLENARY CONSIDERATION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9 OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS AND RESUMED CONFERENCE.

9. DEPARTMENT PLANS TO SHARE FOREGOING WITH UK ALSO, BUT DOES NOT WISH TO DO SO UNTIL REACTIONS OF SRIVASTAVA CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

10. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SRIVASTAVA'S ESTIMATE OF LIKELY PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE. INGERSOLL

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